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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
10/814,038	08/13/2004	Philip Padilla Ruiz	RG2-3138-U	6291
20793	7590	01/31/2006	EXAMINER	
R REAMS GOODLOE, JR. & R. REAMS GOODLOE, P.S. 24722 104TH. AVENUE S.E. SUITE 102 KENT, WA 98030-5322			CARTER, WILLIAM JOSEPH	
			ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
			2875	

DATE MAILED: 01/31/2006

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary

Application No.

10/814,038

Applicant(s)

RUIZ ET AL.

Examiner

William J. Carter

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– The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address –

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 13 August 2004.
- 2a) ☐ This action is FINAL. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-15 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1-15 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☒ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☒ The drawing(s) filed on 01 April 2004 is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☒ objected to by the Examiner.
- Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
- Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
- ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 - ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 - ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).
- * See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- 1) ☒ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
- 2) ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
- 3) ☒ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date 03/17/05.
- 4) ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____.
- 5) ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
- 6) ☐ Other: _____.

DETAILED ACTION

Drawings

The drawings are objected to as failing to comply with 37 CFR 1.84(p)(5) because they do not include reference sign(s). Labels should be changed to reference numerals that are identified in the specification. Corrected drawing sheets in compliance with 37 CFR 1.121(d) are required in reply to the Office action to avoid abandonment of the application. Any amended replacement drawing sheet should include all of the figures appearing on the immediate prior version of the sheet, even if only one figure is being amended. Each drawing sheet submitted after the filing date of an application must be labeled in the top margin as either "Replacement Sheet" or "New Sheet" pursuant to 37 CFR 1.121(d). If the changes are not accepted by the examiner, the applicant will be notified and informed of any required corrective action in the next Office action. The objection to the drawings will not be held in abeyance.

Specification

The title of the invention is not descriptive. A new title is required that is clearly indicative of the invention to which the claims are directed.

The following guidelines illustrate the preferred layout for the specification of a utility application. These guidelines are suggested for the applicant's use.

Arrangement of the Specification

As provided in 37 CFR 1.77(b), the specification of a utility application should include the following sections in order. Each of the lettered items should appear in upper case, without underlining or bold type, as a section heading. If no text follows the section heading, the phrase "Not Applicable" should follow the section heading:

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- (a) TITLE OF THE INVENTION.
- (b) CROSS-REFERENCE TO RELATED APPLICATIONS.
- (c) STATEMENT REGARDING FEDERALLY SPONSORED RESEARCH OR DEVELOPMENT.
- (d) THE NAMES OF THE PARTIES TO A JOINT RESEARCH AGREEMENT
- (e) INCORPORATION-BY-REFERENCE OF MATERIAL SUBMITTED ON A COMPACT DISC (See 37 CFR 1.52(e)(5) and MPEP 608.05. Computer program listings (37 CFR 1.96(c)), "Sequence Listings" (37 CFR 1.821(c)), and tables having more than 50 pages of text are permitted to be submitted on compact discs.) or
REFERENCE TO A "MICROFICHE APPENDIX" (See MPEP § 608.05(a). "Microfiche Appendices" were accepted by the Office until March 1, 2001.)
- (f) BACKGROUND OF THE INVENTION.
 - (1) Field of the Invention.
 - (2) Description of Related Art including information disclosed under 37 CFR 1.97 and 1.98.
- (g) BRIEF SUMMARY OF THE INVENTION.
- (h) BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF THE SEVERAL VIEWS OF THE DRAWING(S).
- (i) DETAILED DESCRIPTION OF THE INVENTION.
- (j) CLAIM OR CLAIMS (commencing on a separate sheet).
- (k) ABSTRACT OF THE DISCLOSURE (commencing on a separate sheet).
- (l) SEQUENCE LISTING (See MPEP § 2424 and 37 CFR 1.821-1.825. A "Sequence Listing" is required on paper if the application discloses a nucleotide or amino acid sequence as defined in 37 CFR 1.821(a) and if the required "Sequence Listing" is not submitted as an electronic document on compact disc).

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102

The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless –

(e) the invention was described in (1) an application for patent, published under section 122(b), by another filed in the United States before the invention by the applicant for patent or (2) a patent granted on an application for patent by another filed in the United States before the invention by the applicant for patent, except that an international application filed under the treaty defined in section 351(a) shall have the effects for purposes of this subsection of an application filed in the United States only if the international application designated the United States and was published under Article 21(2) of such treaty in the English language.

Claims 1-3, 6-9, and 11 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(e) as being anticipated by Golding (6,745,507).

With respect to claim 1, Golding teaches an apparatus for identifying a house (10) comprising: a plurality of translucent (column 6, lines 29-35) display panels (40 and 42), each of the display panels having a light source (48) therein and an identification symbol (46) thereon, the identification symbol illuminated by the light source, the translucent display panels further comprising a male interlocking connector portion (left side of items 40 and 42) and a female interlocking connector portion (right side of items 40 and 42), the interlocking connector portions in adjacent display panels of the plurality of translucent display panels configured for detachable interfitting mating engagement (Fig. 1), the male and female interlocking connector portions comprising power supply wiring (45) for supply of power to the light source within each of the display panels.

As for claim 2, Golding shows an electrical power supply unit (14), the power supply unit configured to supply a desired voltage electrical power supply to the plurality of translucent display panels (column 6, lines 5-11).

As for claim 3, Golding teaches a power adaptor (45), the power adaptor configured for interlocking engagement with one of the interlocking connector portions on one of the translucent display panels, the power adapter configured for transmitting electrical power from the electrical power supply to one of the interlocking connector portions (column 6, lines 40-42).

As for claim 6, Golding shows the display panels (40 and 42) further comprise one or more screw through apertures (44 and 47) defined by interior edge wall portions.

As for claim 7, Golding shows the display panels comprise first and second sidewall portions (the vertical edges of items 40 and 42 closest to item 46), and wherein the interlocking connector portions are configured (left and right sides of items 40 and 42) as complementary receptacle grooves and protruding plugs (Fig. 1).

As for claim 8, Golding teaches the receptacle grooves are provided in the first sidewall (right vertical edge of items 40 and 42 closest to item 46), and the plugs are provided protruding from the second sidewall (left vertical edge of items 40 and 42 closest to item 46).

As for claim 9, Golding shows adjacent display panels are secured in interfitting mating engagement by complementary tongue and groove features in adjacent first and second sidewalls of adjacent display panels (Fig. 1).

As for claim 11, Golding teaches an ambient light photo sensor (Fig. 4a) and a controller (31), the ambient light sensor adapted to sense low light conditions and to act, through the controller, to turn on the light sources in the plurality of display panels (column 5, line 66-column 6, line 3).

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

Claims 4, 5, and 12-14 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Golding in view of Thelen (5,709,045).

With respect to claims 4 and 5, Golding teaches all of the claimed elements, as disclosed above, except for the electrical power supply comprising a transformer that supplies power at approximately 9 volts. Thelen, drawn to illuminated identification devices, teaches an electrical power supply comprising a transformer (12) that supplies power at approximately 9 volts (column 2, lines 41-42). It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art, at the time of the invention, to use the transformer of Thelen in the apparatus of Golding, in order to in order to provide a low voltage power supply capable of continuous illumination (column 1, lines 25-27).

As for claims 12-14, Golding teaches all of the claimed elements, as disclosed above, as well as the translucent display panels (40 and 42) comprise identification symbols (46) that comprise letters and number (Fig. 1). Golding does not explicitly teach electroluminescent lighting. Thelen teaches electroluminescent lighting for identification symbols (Abstract). It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art, at the time of the invention, to use the electroluminescent lighting of Thelen in the identification symbols of Golding, in order to provide a continuously lighted identification address, which is highly visible at night (column 1, lines 49-50).

Claim 10 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Golding in view of Johnson et al. (6,439,731).

With respect to claim 10, Golding teaches all of the claimed elements, as disclosed above, as well as an emergency mode (column 4, lines 1-3). Golding does not

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explicitly teach the display unit comprising multi-level light sources, the multi-level light source configured for operation in a normal, low intensity lighting mode, and a high intensity lighting mode. Johnson, drawn to illuminated displays, teaches a display unit comprising multi-level light sources, the multi-level light source configured for operation in a normal, low intensity lighting mode, and a high intensity lighting mode (column 6, lines 8-22). It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art, at the time of the invention, to use the dimming circuit of Johnson in the display unit of Golding, in order to provide a less expensive way to adjust light intensity over infinite output levels (column 6, lines 8-22).

Claim 15 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Golding and Johnson as applied to claim 10 above, and further in view of Edwards et al. (4,901,461).

With respect to claim 15, Golding and Johnson teach all of the claimed elements, as disclosed above, except an emergency display mode wherein the one or more display panels are powered in a flashing configuration during the emergency display mode. Edwards, also drawn to illuminated identification devices, teaches an emergency display mode wherein the one or more display panels are powered in a flashing configuration during the emergency display mode (Abstract). It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art, at the time of the invention to use the emergency display mode of Edwards in the display unit of Golding, in order to give a status signal to a person outside the home (Abstract).

Conclusion

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to William J. Carter whose telephone number is (571)272-0959. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday through Friday.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Renee S. Luebke can be reached on (571)272-2009. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).

wjc
01/24/06



RENEE LUEBKE
PRIMARY EXAMINER